

# **IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday May 16th 2021.**

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## **40 Metre News Broadcasts**

At the IRTS Committee meeting on Saturday last, a vote of thanks was passed to Joe Cosgrave EI6EG for his service as the newsreader on the weekly 40 metre news bulletin over the past three years. Joe made his final broadcast on Sunday last May 2nd. Band conditions have not been good over the period and Joe is to be commended for his patience and persistence every Sunday morning. We hope that Joe will still be heard on the South Dublin Radio Club 40 metre net on 7.123MHz on Sunday mornings starting at 0830 and running until news time at 1100. Volunteer newsreaders for the 40 metres bulletin at 1100 on Sundays are being sought and anyone interested in joining a rota is invited to contact newsteam /at/ irts.ie.

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## **Radio Amateur Examination Closing Date**

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society Examination Board has announced 1400 on Friday next May 21st as the closing date for anyone wishing to sit the next Amateur Radio Station Examination. Examinations have not been held in recent months due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on travel and indoor gatherings. However, given the current positive outlook, the Board hope to announce an examination date in mid-summer in the not too distant future. All the details on how to make an application for the examinations are available on the IRTS website on [www.irts.ie/exam](http://www.irts.ie/exam)

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## **EIØHQ in the 2021 IARU HF Championship**

The contest manager is still looking for volunteers to operate EIØHQ on some single bands in the IARU HF Championships on July 10th and 11th. Operators in this contest must be in a position to forward a Cabrillo-formatted log to the contest manager immediately after the contest, as logs from all HQ Station ops will need to be merged prior to uploading to ARRL within the 5-day load upload deadline. While some slots have been filled, there are several available. Send your expressions of interest to Contest Manager Joe Ryan EI7GY at IRTS.contests /at/ gmail.com

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## **YOTA Contest**

The first round of the Youngsters on the Air contest will be taking place next weekend on 22nd of May, from 0800 to 1959 UTC, on bands 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, CW and SSB. Ireland's youngest amateur, Ryan EI8KW will be operating the EI0YOTA callsign from his home station. IRTS Youth Officer Niall EI6HIB will also be active but under his own callsign and Marty EI2IAB will be operating EI2SBC for the event. The scoring of the contest is based on age, with younger operators being worth more points. The full details can be found on [www.ham-yota.com/contest/](http://www.ham-yota.com/contest/) It will be an exciting contest and there will be lots of youth on the air so get on the radio and welcome them to this great hobby!

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### **IRTS News Resumes on the Galway DMR Network**

Steve, EI5DD, will resume reading the IRTS news via the Galway DMR Repeater Network on Sunday the 23rd of May at 8pm via Talk Group 8, the local Cluster on Time Slot 2. All four of the Galway Repeaters will broadcast the news simultaneously via the Cluster. Those outside the coverage of the Galway DMR Repeater Network may access the DMR News via Talk Group 27255 if using a hotspot or via another DMR Repeater network. A reminder that the Analog FM news continues to be broadcast on the Galway Analog Repeater, 145.625MHz, at 9pm following the DMR News. All reception reports are appreciated and welcomed following the news where a brief net generally follows.

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### **Direct QSLing to cost more from May 27th**

The cost of mailing QSL cards is going to get more expensive from May 27th when An Post increase postal rates. Mailing to EI and GI is increasing from the current one euro to one euro and ten cents and the overseas rate is going from one euro and seventy cents to two euro. Existing 'N' and 'W' stamps will still be acceptable under the new rates. At the time of writing, two euro was the equivalent of 2.4 US Dollars. There will also be no increase in charges for sending Registered Mail, large envelopes and packets within Ireland.

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### **EI2DKH 144MHz two-way Trans-Atlantic Beacon operated by EI8JK, Tony Baldwin**

The 144MHz two-way Trans-Atlantic Beacon operated by EI8JK, Tony Baldwin is now on the air from Kilcrohane, Sheep's Head, Co. Cork, Ireland in locator square. IO51dn. The beacon transmits on 144.488MHz every even minute on Q65 with CW ident at the end and listens for replies from across the Atlantic (and elsewhere) on

144.120MHz every odd minute. The beacon equipment consists of 2 by five element LFA-Q antennas (22.24dBi) that are beaming due West. The beacon transmits with a power of 50 watts. The software and control system is Joe Taylor K1JT's WSJT Q65 software. On the other side of the Atlantic, the beacon VO1FN at St. John's, Newfoundland is currently in receive mode and listening for EI2DKH using 2 by 5 element InnovAntenna Quad antennas with the spacing optimised by Justin G0KSC at 1.8 metres to provide stability of the installation.

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### **GB0AEL to Commemorate Trans-Atlantic Flight**

The North West Group Amateur Radio Club in Derry is commemorating the 89th anniversary of the first woman flying solo across the Atlantic by holding a Special Event Station on Friday 21st May. This will be held at the landing site used by Amelia Earhart which is just outside of the City of Derry. It is planned to link-up the mayors of the City of Derry and Strabane Council and the Conception Bay area in Newfoundland where Amelia set off from. They will be active on 80 to 10 metres on CW, SSB, data modes and DMR. The callsign which is GB0AEL will be activated by club members from Saturday 15th May. For further news and updates, see [www.grz.com](http://www.grz.com)

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### **On the Air next week**

The RSGB 80m Club Championship on Data modes runs from 1900z to 2030z on Wednesday next the 19th. As mentioned earlier in the bulletin the Youngsters on the Air contest runs next Saturday from 0800 to 1959z. The EU PSK DX Contest run by the European PSK DX Club runs for 24 hours from 1200z on Saturday the 22nd. The 57th Baltic Contest on CW and SSB starts on Saturday next the 22nd at 2100 and finishes at 0200 on Sunday 23rd. Frequencies allowed are 3510 to 3600 kHz on CW and 3600 to 3750 kHz on SSB. Stations in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania work everybody else and the exchange is report and serial number.

DX news Members of the Korean Amateur Radio League are using the special callsign HL41GDM to mark the 41st anniversary of the Democratic Uprising in South Korea, which occurred between May 18th and 27th in 1980. Operators will be calling on all bands and modes until May 31st. QSL via HL4CCM, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog, or eQSL.

Special call sign PD21EUROSONG is QRV from the Netherlands until May 22 to celebrate the 65th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest being held in Rotterdam. QSL via bureau. Ian, ZS6JSI is QRV as TY5AB from Benin. Activity has been on 20 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

Adrien, F4IHM, is expected to be back on the air again as 5UAIHM from Niger between May 10th and June 15th. Activity will be limited, but on 40/20 meters CW/SSB (watch around 1700z). QSL via F4IHM, direct or buro. Look for SV9/DD1GG, holiday-style, low power, during May 15th to 24th. QRV on 40 to 10 metres, SSB & FT8.

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## **5MHz Newsletter**

The latest edition of the 5 MHz Newsletter (No 26 – Spring 2021) is now available for free pdf download from the 'External Links' section of the Wikipedia 60 metre band page or the RSGB 5 MHz page. This edition includes 5 MHz current news from Uzbekistan, Austria, South Africa and Israel plus a list of the 80 countries now on the band. There is also a list of websites relating to the 5MHz band. The editor of the 5MHz newsletter is Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, QTHR. E-Mail: g4mwo at arrl.ne

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That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam/at/irts/dot/ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday. Urgent items for the news may be telephoned to News Editor Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574.

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